

Urban Districts of
Hoylake, Neston and Wirral

REPORT

OF THE

Acting Medical Officer of Health

J. B. YEOMAN

M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H.

Barrister-at-Law

For the Year 1945

Medical Officer of Health:

J. HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

(on active service)

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1945

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INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of this Report is to comply with the instructions of the Ministry of Health to supply statistics and data whereby the conditions of the area may be compared with those of other areas, and to make suggestions for improvement and criticisms of existing conditions. As in the compilation of the reports of past years any matter has been laid under contribution which, it was felt, might be useful to local authorities.

The limitations and restrictions which were imposed during the war years on the contents and publication of Medical Officers' reports have now been removed and it is possible to resume the wider survey which was formerly undertaken. Consequently, this Report will be found to present statistics of the war years as well as of the current year. Subjects are now mentioned which have fallen into arrear and matters appertaining to future programmes are emphasised.

All three districts present similar characteristics as they are situated along the Estuary of the Dee, grouped around nuclei constituted by old village settlements. The inhabitants find employment in the neighbouring Merseyside industrial areas from which they are separated by a belt of agricultural land. Recent developments are dependent upon improved transport facilities provided by 'buses and the Mersey Road Tunnel and in the Hoylake area by the electrification of the railway.

They are devoid of industries except those of the lightest description, such as laundering, printing works and woodworking.

The population of the combined area is estimated at 49,285 persons occupying a space of 20,069 acres, a density of some $2\frac{1}{2}$ persons per acre.

The year 1945 has seen the close of the second world war, and the Medical Officer of Health of the area, Dr. J. Hatton, is expected to return to his normal duties early in 1946.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WAR PERIOD.

It is interesting now to review the course of vital statistics in England and Wales during the war. The experience of the past is generally the only guide to future events, particularly when attempting to predict the behaviour of diseases which are known to be sensitive to social upheavals. We recall that at the outbreak of war certain unknown factors such as the influence of air attack and of shelter life on the well being of the community led to doubts and fears about the future of the public health, but we know now that the health of the nation was well maintained in spite of these uncertainties.

The trend of vital statistics during the war was similar in several respects to the experience of 1914-1918, but there were some striking differences. In both periods the outbreak of war resulted in a large increase in the number of marriages. In 1915 the rate rose to 19.4 and then declined to the lowest level recorded—13.68 in 1917. The end of the war brought another increase and rates of 19.8 and 20.2 were recorded in 1919 and 1920. The marriage rate rose to 21.2 in 1939, increased to the record level of 22.7 in 1940, remained above the peace time level for the two years following, and then fell to 14.3 in 1943.

The birth rates for the years 1915 to 1920 were as follows :—23.6, 20.9, 17.8, 17.7, 18.5 and 25.4. From 1922 onwards the rate showed a tendency to fall and the decline in the birth rate continued during the first years of the war, the rate of 14.2 in 1941 being the lowest ever recorded, but for 1942-1945 the rate rose to 15.8, 16.5, 18.0 and 16.1. The contrasting movements of the marriage and birth rates in the two wars were due to the differing geographical distribution of the army. In the first war most of the army was outside this country for long periods, but in the war of 1939-1945, a large army remained at home for some years. The general death rate rose to 14.4 per 1,000 in 1940, and it was the highest rate since 1918. 0.6 of this rate was due to civilian war deaths. The death rate fell in 1941 to 12.9, and varied between 11.4 and 12.1 in 1942-1945, which compared favourably with the figure of 12.0, the average of the years 1935-1939.

Infant mortality, which had fallen to 50 per 1,000 live births in 1939, rose to 56 and 59 in the two succeeding years, but in the years 1942-1945, the rates were 49, 49, 46 and 46, 46 being the lowest yet experienced in this country. The mass evacuation of children after the outbreak of war caused some foreboding. Many epidemiologists thought that the mingling of populations from town and country with differing degrees of resistance to the common infectious diseases of childhood would result in a large increase in the incidence of these complaints. Although under arrangements by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education about three quarters of a million children were evacuated from congested and industrial areas there was no great increase in notifications of infectious diseases, in fact the expected epidemic of measles of 1939-1940 was postponed. There was, however, some evidence that native country children had a somewhat heavier incidence than billeted town children. A notable advance in the control of diphtheria was marked by the government's campaign for immunisation. Notifications of diphtheria have steadily fallen since 1941, until in the present year they have reached a new low level. The incidence is now approximately half the pre-war level and the mortality has declined even more than the incidence.

It was suggested that the condition of overcrowding, shelter life and black-out with impaired ventilation, particularly in London and the great towns, would favour an epidemic of influenza, and the memories of the pandemic which raged in 1918 gave this possibility a real significance. The annual outbreaks of influenza were, however, comparatively light, and the only occasion for anxiety was during the epidemic of 1943, when the incidence began to increase about two months earlier than usual. The deaths during the closing weeks of the year were many times more than the normal seasonal number, but the epidemic waned quickly and it had practically disappeared by early spring, when the usual maximum occurs.

After the outbreak of war there was a large increase in cerebrospinal fever, an experience similar to that of 1914-1918. The cases in the more recent outbreak were widespread, while in the epidemic of 1914 they tended to be concentrated about the large military camps. During the ninth week of 1940, notifications reached a maximum of 617, this being from 12 to 20 times greater than the highest figure of preceding years. In the summer the incidence dropped to about six times the peace time epidemic level. The discovery and application of sulphonamide drugs for the treatment of this disease has considerably reduced the fatality rate. In 1915-1917 there were 8,068 notifications and 5,222 deaths, yielding a fatality rate of 64.72%. In 1940-1941 there were 23,840 notifications and 4,747 deaths, giving a fatality rate of 19.91.

It was anticipated that an increase in the incidence of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, perhaps to epidemic levels, would result from war damage and disruption of water and sewerage services. This danger was averted, and except in 1941 the cases of the enteric fevers have been fewer than in the years of peace. The most spectacular of the 1941 outbreaks of paratyphoid fever was that which began in Liverpool, Bootle and Birkenhead in June of that year, and which had resulted in 883 cases by the beginning of the September. The Liverpool cases first occurred in a densely populated area which had suffered severely from the bombing during the earlier part of the year, and it was suspected that the damage had led to pollution of the water supply, but all samples of water taken were above reproach. The source of infection was eventually traced to a bakery with multiple branches. No fewer than ten carriers of paratyphoid B were discovered in this establishment. In contrast with the trend of the enteric fevers the incidence of dysentery has steadily risen since 1939. The annual notifications of dysentery for 1939-1945 were 1,963, 2,843, 6,597, 7,177, 7,772, 10,152 and 16,243. The majority of the cases were of the Sonne type, which fortunately is not a severe one, and it is probable that the notifications represent only a proportion of those which actually occurred. Other forms of illness caused by

infected food are not notifiable, but it appears that various forms of food poisoning have been more common than formerly. The general relaxation of standards of cleanliness and the increased risks associated with communal feeding have been largely responsible for these gastrointestinal infections.

The continued increase in scabies during the war in spite of energetic measures to combat it, was a cause of concern to many public health authorities. The whole of the increase cannot be attributed to war conditions. During the war of 1914-1918 there was a rise which was ascribed to the infection of soldiers returning from France. The return of peace saw an improvement, but for ten years prior to 1939 the incidence of scabies was showing a tendency to increase.

Collectively the figures and facts outlined above show clearly that we have indeed been fortunate, and that our epidemiological experiences and the vital statistics generally for the war period have been more favourable than we might have ventured to expect.

DIPHTHERIA.

Mortality from diphtheria has fallen steadily since the end of the nineteenth century. The death rate per million of children under 15 years of age fell from 888 in 1901 to 310 in 1938. While this was a substantial improvement there were many who felt that it was disappointing, since of the infectious diseases of childhood, diphtheria was the one in which our knowledge of the identity and behaviour of the causal agent was most complete. The diphtheria bacillus was first described in 1883, and it is comparatively easy to culture and identify. In the years immediately before the war about 3,000 children died annually in England and Wales from the disease. At the ages 5 to 10 years deaths from diphtheria exceeded in number those from the next two most important causes of death combined.

The diphtheria bacillus produces in culture a toxin which after suitable modification can be used with safety for producing active immunity to diphtheria in man. Material of this description has been available for over thirty years, and has been used most extensively in North America, at first experimentally and later for the mass immunisation of the child population. The experience of some American and Canadian cities over a period of 20 to 25 years showed a drastic reduction in mortality after the introduction of active immunisation. In New York, where diphtheria deaths averaged 1,290 a year from 1910 to 1919, the figure for 1939 was 22, and the 1940 figure 10. Deaths from diphtheria in Toronto were reduced from 15.7 per 100,000 children in 1926 to 0.61 for 1933-1936, and 0.3 in the period

1940-1944. These striking results led the Government in 1940 to offer a proved prophylactic free to all local authorities, and to launch a national campaign for the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

The object of the campaign was in the first place to guard against an increase of diphtheria as a result of war conditions, and ultimately to stamp out diphtheria as an epidemic disease. Previously immunisation was left largely to the initiative of local authorities. Some did well, notably Birmingham, but the total number of immunised children throughout the country as a whole was comparatively small, and it is estimated that the immunised children in England and Wales in 1939 were less than 10 per cent. of the total child population under 15 years of age. Since the campaign began in 1940 the government has provided local authorities with free prophylactic material, and with help in the sphere of publicity. Other expenses are borne by the local authorities. The campaign is directed towards immunising all children up to the age of 15, and the immediate target is 75 per cent. of the total. This is regarded as the minimum necessary to secure the elimination of diphtheria as an epidemic disease.

The estimated total child population under 15 in England and Wales at the end of 1945 was 8,786,000. The annual births number approximately 700,000. The target therefore will not be reached until we have over 6,500,000 immunised children aged 15 and under, and until in addition we are immunising 500,000 babies annually about the time they reach their first birthday. The total number of children at present aged 0 to 15 who have been immunised under the government's scheme is about 5,121,000. In addition some children have been immunised privately, but there are still at least 3,500,000 children, representing over 40 per cent. of the child population who have not been immunised. A social survey made in October, 1945, revealed that there were no considerable differences between the proportion of immunised children in towns and rural areas, that the average was somewhat lower in the north than in other regions, and that parents of the higher education and income groups were slightly more favourable to immunisation than those of the lower groups. The percentage of immunised children at the end of each year since the opening of the campaign was as follows :—

1939	8
1941 ..	30
1942	50
1943	55
1944	55
1945	58

At the outset there was a good response from large numbers of willing parents, but the indifference or prejudice of others resulted in slower progress subsequently. The chief initial success was among school children, because they are more accessible than infants. By the end of 1941 about 36 per cent. of children of school age had been immunised, but only 19 per cent. of the younger children. In 1942 the campaign continued to advocate immunisation for all children, but the emphasis was particularly on those under 5, the age group for whom diphtheria is most dangerous. 600,000 of them were treated that year in addition to approximately 800,000 older children. A survey conducted in 1942 proved that by that time there was widespread knowledge about immunisation, though some apathy and indifference still existed.

Again in 1943 local authorities gave special attention to the problem of the children under five, and in 1944 efforts were directed particularly to persuading parents to immunise their children at about the first birthday or at all events before entry into school. Propaganda at the present time places great importance on immunisation at what is regarded as the best age, namely, just before the first birthday, with increasing emphasis on the necessity for protection at an early age. The ratio of immunisation between the 5 to 15 and the 0 to 5 age groups, has changed as the campaign has progressed. At first immunisations were proportionately more numerous among children of school age, but the position has now been reversed, and last year more than three times as many children were immunised before the age of five as between the ages of 5 to 15. As immunity takes three months to develop, and as diphtheria is usually more prevalent in autumn and winter, special efforts have been made each year to secure the treatment of as many children as possible during the spring and summer. The number of cases of diphtheria notified and the deaths in England and Wales for the years 1935 to 1945 are given below :—

	Cases	Deaths.
1935	65,084	3,408
1936	57,795	3,003
1937	61,341	2,898
1938	65,008	2,931
1939	47,343	2,133
1940	46,281	2,480
1941	50,797	2,641
1942	41,404	1,827
1943	34,662	1,371
1944	29,949	934
1945	25,223	720

As this table shows, the pre-war figures for diphtheria averaged more than 50,000 cases and approximately 2,900 deaths annually. Judged from these figures the number of cases notified is now half the pre-war level, but it is probable that the reduction is actually greater than this, as there is evidence that more suspected cases have been notified during recent years, due to a tendency to send greater numbers of such cases to hospital for investigation. Until June of last year no correction was made in the returns for the error caused by including these suspected cases, which after observation in an isolation hospital were diagnosed differently. The figures show also that deaths from diphtheria have decreased at a greater rate than the cases notified. The 1945 figure, the lowest ever recorded, shows that deaths have fallen to less than a quarter of the average for the years before the war. Though it must not be forgotten that diphtheria epidemics are liable to a certain periodicity, these figures indicate that immunisation has already taken us a considerable way towards defeating diphtheria.

The decline in diphtheria in this country throughout the war is in striking contrast with the position in other European countries, where diphtheria epidemics have been the worst for 50 years. Precautions are therefore all the more important at home now that the end of the war has brought increasing contact with continental countries, where diphtheria of the most malignant variety is still prevalent.

Immunisation affords a good degree of protection, though not complete protection, against an attack of diphtheria. It affords a very high degree of protection indeed against the risk of death from diphtheria. Immunised persons, if they do contract diphtheria, nearly always do so in a mild form. Of 135,431 children's cases notified between 1940 and 1944, 17,084 had been immunised, and 118,347 had not, and of 3,346 who died, 118 had been immunised and 3,228 had not. Of every 30 children who died from diphtheria during the years 1942—1943, 29 had not been immunised. In 1941 the death rate among the unimmunised was 28 times as great as that for the immunised.

The changing distribution of age of attack was a feature of pre-war experience, and the shift was from pre-school to school ages. Official statistics do not permit of a comparison of notifications by age before June, 1944, so that the effects of immunisation on age distribution cannot yet be determined. Reports of Medical Officers of Health, however, suggest that the age of attack has increased and that adolescents and adults form a much larger proportion of the cases than in the pre-war years.

The success achieved by immunisation in depressing the incidence and the mortality of diphtheria to the lowest level ever recorded gives encouragement for further efforts. Unless the proportion of children immunised is maintained, in a few years births will yield a child population in which the immunised are again in a minority.

War Diet.

In the opinion of some persons food rationing has had a salutary effect on the health of the nation and the nutrition of the individual has not suffered to any material extent. It is said that those who were addicted to over-indulgence in food and drink during the spacious years before the war have perforce been cured of their failings, whilst the under-fed of the lowest social level have enjoyed higher incomes during the war and have benefited greatly from the uniform distribution of supplies and the educational work which has been undertaken by the Ministry of Food in association with the general scheme of rationing.

The subject of nutrition is one which cannot easily be disassociated from that of health in general and in searching for evidence of improved or impaired nutrition we turn naturally to the available health records, such as death rates, infant mortality rates, prevalence of epidemic diseases or tuberculosis. A consideration of these for the war period is, however, not very helpful. True there was a slight increase in tuberculous diseases during the second and third years of the war, but food difficulties were not the sole cause of this. Undoubtedly the stresses of war, physical and psychological, had an important influence as well. The war years, too, have been good years so far as deaths and births are concerned, and the country has escaped epidemics of unusual severity. Clearly official statistics are not enough and we must turn elsewhere.

There is evidence which is based on day to day experience rather than on statistical records which supports the view that during the later part of the war the adult civilian population have suffered from a degree of subnormal health which is unusual. Minor illnesses, debility, lack of energy, are examples of the complaints mentioned. The requirements of the body in terms of quantities of chemical compounds are known. The amount of food required depends to a large extent on calorific value, and for calories we rely on carbohydrates which are plentiful, and fats which are scarce. We need protein also, for the maintenance of the body tissues. We require all three, but they must bear a relationship to each other, and there is

some uncertainty of what that relationship should be. The present rations are just sufficient if they are used with care and the minimum of waste, but few would say that our diet is not sometimes monotonous and uninteresting.

It would be unwise to attribute any impairment in our health to diet alone, for other factors have been at work. The anxieties and frustrations inseparable from a war time life must not be overlooked, and the curtailment of leisure and opportunity for recreation and enjoyment are also important. The prospect of a fuller life with the return of peace will, however, relieve much of the boredom and sense of stagnation, but greater variety in our diet will also be a welcome change, and will unquestionably do much to restore the vitality of the nation.

HOYLAKE URBAN DISTRICT.

The Urban District was constituted in 1889 ; and on 1st April, 1933, the Parishes of Caldby, Frankby, Greasby, Grange and part of Saughall Massie were added.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	5,933
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1945)	24,770
Number of inhabited houses	7,650
Rateable Value	£278,628
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,100

The area is residential and agricultural. Fishing is still pursued by Hoylake men, and other occupations are laundry and domestic work, wood-working and printing.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1939—1945 in Hoylake :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.
1939	23,400	4 more deaths than births 0.2
1940	26,290	15 more deaths than births 0.0
1941	28,580	63 more deaths than births -2.2
1942	23,080	77 more births than deaths 2.7
1943	26,340	25 more births than deaths 0.0
1944	25,100	107 more births than deaths 4.3
1945	24,770	10 more births than deaths 0.4

Extracts from vital statistics for the year 1945.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 24,770, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	312	160	152
Illegitimate	21	13	8
Totals	333	173	160

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	—	13.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	16.1
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)	.....	19.2

Stillbirths.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals	8	4	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	23.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales		27.5

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	323	154	169
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		...	13.0
Death Rate for England and Wales		..	11.4
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	..		12.3

The Registrar-General has not supplied a Comparability Factor since 1940, because the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors have been suspended for the present.

The absence of a Comparability Factor precludes a comparison between the former two rates.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ..	Nil.	—
Other maternal causes	Nil.	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	9	3	6
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals	10	4	6

All infants per 1,000 live births 30.0

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.9

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 47.6

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 46.0

Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and
Wales (population 25,000—50,000) 43.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 55

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil.

Number of Deaths during Years 1939—1945.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1939	320	13.1
1940	336	12.8
1941	388	13.6
1942	318	11.3
1943	367	13.9
1944	324	12.9
1945	323	13.0

Deaths at Various Ages During 1945.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	10
1 year and under 2	1
2 years and under 5	1
5 years and under 15	2
15 years and under 25	5
25 years and under 35	5
35 years and under 45	8
45 years and under 55	17
55 years and under 65	57
65 years and under 75	98
75 years and under 85	87
85 years and over	32
Total	323

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1939—1945.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Hoyleake	England & Wales
1939	25.2	50
1940	24.7	55
1941	48.1	59
1942	35.4	49
1943	38.3	49
1944	25.5	46
1945	30.0	46

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 43 in 1945.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year.
Premature Birth	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases	2	1	—	1	2	1	1	—	7
Total	3	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	10

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	5	11
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	2	2
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	1	1	2
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	2	2	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	5	9
15. Cancer of breast	—	6	6
16. Cancer of all other sites	18	18	36
17. Diabetes	—	1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	17	30	47
19. Heart disease	43	52	95
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	6	8
21. Bronchitis	5	8	13
22. Pneumonia	11	1	12
23. Other respiratory diseases	4	1	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	—	5
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	1	—	1
27. Other digestive diseases	—	3	3
28. Nephritis	8	3	11
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	1	2	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	3	4	7
33. Suicide	2	1	3
34. Road traffic accidents	2	1	3
35. Other violent causes	4	4	8
36. All other causes	14	12	26
TOTALS	154	169	323

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1945 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)	
	Population Estimated Mid-Year	Rate			Transferable				Under 1 year of age			At all ages			
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate	Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales		Rate England & Wales
1939	23,400	316	13.5	15.0	267	13	66	8	25.2	50	320	13.1	12.1	12.1	— 4
1940	26,290	321	12.2	14.6	298	37	75	8	24.7	55	336	12.8	10.9	14.3	—15
1941	28,580	325	11.0	14.2	343	52	97	16	48.1	59	388	13.6		12.9	—63
1942	25,080	395	14.0	15.8	262	33	89	14	35.4	49	318	11.3		11.6	+77
1943	26,340	392	14.8	16.5	302	44	109	15	38.3	49	367	13.9		12.1	+25
1944	25,100	431	17.2	17.6	268	27	83	11	25.5	46	324	12.9		11.6	+107
1945	24,770	333	13.4	16.1	280	37	80	10	30.0	46	323	13.0		11.4	+10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

A private laboratory is employed for the routine examination of clinical material and for the investigation of disease.

Food and Drugs throughout the District are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Water supplies and swimming baths are investigated for the Council by the Counties Public Health Laboratories and the University of Liverpool.

The Municipal Laboratories at Birkenhead are employed for the examination of milk samples.

Ambulance Facilities.

Depot :—"Broomfield," Meols Drive, Hoylake.

Telephone : Hoylake 203.

Day and night accident and sick removal service is maintained.

This Service came under the control of the Health Committee on the inauguration of the National Fire Service. It was previously operated in conjunction with the Fire Brigade. Difficulties have arisen in respect of the vehicles, owing to the fact that two transferred ambulances were very old. Servicing and replacement of worn parts to both vehicles became impossible and they were discarded owing to unreliability. Efforts to secure a new vehicle have so far been unsuccessful. A Civil Defence Ambulance, presented to the Council by the Hoylake Women's Motor Transport, was adapted for use as a temporary expedient. The provision of a new vehicle as soon as manufacturers are in a position to meet requirements is essential to the maintenance of an efficient district ambulance service.

Other Ambulance facilities :—

Clatterbridge County General Hospital. Telephone Thornton Hough 341 (transport of accident, sick and maternity cases to Clatterbridge Hospital).

Merseyside Hospitals Council Ambulance is available to subscribers (removals).

The Hoylake Ambulance was called out the following number of times during the year :—

Illness	Accidents	Maternity	Deaths
250	42	30	23

Nursing in the Home.

This Service is undertaken by the Hoylake and West Kirby District Nursing Association, which provides trained nurses for work about the district. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered serve to support the organisation. The work of the Association is much appreciated by residents of the district.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is conducted at 8, Market Street, Hoylake, on the first Friday of each month at 3-15 p.m.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

Maternity and Child Welfare.	Each Month.	Time.
Hoylake—8, Market Street.	Every Thursday.	1-30 p.m.

Child Welfare.

Greasby—Wesleyan School	Alternate	
Room	..... Wednesdays.	2-15 p.m.

School Clinic.

Hoylake—8, Market Street.	Daily (except Sat. & Sun.)	9-0 a.m. to 10-0 a.m.
---------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------

Dental Clinic.	Each Month.	Time.
Hoylake—8, Market Street.	Arranged as required.	
Eye Clinic.		
Hoylake—8, Market Street.	3rd Monday, and arranged as required.	1-0 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic.		
Hoylake—8, Market Street.	Last Friday.	2-0 p.m.
Massage Clinic.		
Hoylake—8, Market Street.	Monday.	10-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
	Wednesday	1-30 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.		
42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.	Every Tuesday and Friday.	2-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.	Males.	
Birkenhead General Hospital.	Monday, Wednesday and Friday.	5-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
	Females.	
	Tuesday.	5-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
	Wednesday and Friday.	2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Hospitals.

Voluntary.

The Hoylake and West Kirby Cottage Hospital provides accommodation for 36 patients. It is staffed by the Practitioners of the District and by visiting Consultants. It is equipped for major surgical work and has a new X-ray Department. The Ministry of Health Hospital Survey of the Hospital Services of the North West Area mentions this hospital in very favourable terms.

The Babies' Hospital and Nurseries, Hoylake has accommodation for the care of 12 resident children, and a day nursery which has proved a great benefit to the mothers of the District, is also conducted by the hospital. The hospital is a Training College for Nursery Nurses.

The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, provides a number of beds for the emergency treatment of sick children from this locality. This institution has excellent equipment and is staffed by visiting Practitioners and Consultants.

The Voluntary Hospitals in Liverpool and Birkenhead admit patients from this District.

Public.

Isolation Hospital. The Hoylake Urban District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board. The Board's Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge has accommodation for 100 patients. The Hospital has modern cubicle wards and a new nurses' home was constructed in 1937. Infectious patients from this area are treated in the hospital where necessary, and under certain conditions beds may be available for measles and whooping cough cases. At Pensby there is a hospital with 12 beds for convalescent scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox Hospital. The Wirral Joint Hospital Board have an arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority for the admission of smallpox patients to the Smallpox Hospital at New Ferry.

General. The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge has been extended and modernised during recent years, and now offers comprehensive services for the investigation and treatment of sickness to residents of this District. The Hospital contains 430 beds, including 34 beds in the Maternity Block, and the hospital has a large staff of resident practitioners and visiting consultants.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Carr Lane, Hoylake. Certain improvements which might serve the convenience of those responsible for conducting post mortem examinations need consideration, but these must necessarily be deferred for the present.

Legislation in Force.

The following is a list of the Local Acts of Parliament, Provisional and other Orders, and Adoptive Acts in force in the District :—

Private Acts.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Act, 1897 | 1897 |
| 2. Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Act, 1900 | 1900 |
| 3. Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council Act, 1925 | 1925 |
| 4. Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935 | 1935 |

Provisional Orders.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Hoylake and West Kirby Electric Lighting Order, 1897 | 1897 |
| 2. Hoylake and West Kirby Order, 1906 | 1906 |

Adoptive Acts.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts II. to V.
2. Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
3. The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
4. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923.
5. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Powers under the following Sections :—
 - Part 2. Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 and 33.
 - Part 6. Sections 76 and 77.
 - Part 7. Sections 79, 81 and 85.
 - Part 9. The whole of
 - Part 10. Section 95.
6. Health Resorts and Watering Places Acts, 1921.
7. The Public Health Act, 1925.

Orders of the County Council.

7th November, 1889—Constitution of the Urban District.

3rd December, 1914—Dividing the Hoylake and West Kirby Urban Sanitary District into four wards. Altering the boundaries between the Urban District and the Wirral Rural District.

County of Chester Review Order, 1933, extension of District.

Council Bye-laws.

	Dates of Adoption.
1. Bathing	1899
2. Seashore	1899
3. Horses, Ponies, Mules or Asses	1900
4. Prevention of Nuisances	1901
5. West Kirby Park	1902
6. Fire Brigade	1911
7. Grange Hill Recreation Ground	1914
8. Pleasure Boats and Vessels	1923
9. Slaughterhouses	1924
10. Steam Organ, etc.	1925
11. Meols Parade, North Parade and South Parade (Sale and Hawking).	1927
12. Wireless Installations.	1928
13. Cemetery Regulations, Fees, etc.	1929
14. Driving Motor Vehicles on the Seashore	1930
15. Foreshores	1931
16. Hackney Carriages.	1931
17. New Street and Buildings.	1936
18. Newton Common.	1936
19. Advertisements.	1937
20. Building.	1939
21. Camping Grounds.	1944

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board. The sources of supply are deep wells at Grange and Newton in the former case, and from Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth in the latter. In both cases the supplies are controlled by quarterly chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated, and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those investigated during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters supplied in the area have a plumbo solvent action, and the analysts' reports have revealed no evidence of contamination in any form.

The Council's supplies have a hardness of 20.0 and 27.0, expressed in parts per 100,000, at the Newton and Grange Works respectively, and 24.5 at the Town Main. Softening of the Council's supply was discontinued in 1939. Softening of the West Cheshire Water Supply is carried out to the extent indicated below :—

Source	Hardness	Hardness after Softening
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Hooton ..	25.5	13.0
Mouldsworth ..	31.0	25.5
Prenton ..	24.5	Not softened.

With the exception of seven houses on Hilbre Island public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking and domestic and trade purposes. Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the house, (b) by means of standpipes are given below :—

				Dwelling Houses Population	
(a)	House direct	.....	.....	6,000	20,000
(b)	Standpipes	....	..	25	70

Consumption.

The total volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks during 1945 was 348,000,000 gallons, representing a consumption of 47 gallons per head per day.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

The following are copies of reports on chemical and bacteriological examinations of the supplies :—

Analyst's Report.**WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.****Hooton Pumping Station.**

11th July, 1945.

Analysis of sample of water received on 3rd July, 1945, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station—flamed tap in softening house. Filtered, softened and chlorinated.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness T. T. Lunt. Date 2/7/45. 12-40 p.m.

	Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.	
Appearance	Clear and bright.	
Colour	Normal.	Odour Nil.
Reaction pH	Neutral : 7.2.	Free Carbonic Acid 2.1
Electric Conductivity		Alkalinity as Calcium
at 20°C	700	Carbonate 23.5
Total Solids, 180°C	47.0	
Chlorine in Chlorides	9.4	
Nitrogen in Nitrates . .	0.06	Nitrites Absent.
Hardness : Permanent	0.0	
Temporary	13.0	
Total	13.0	
Metals	Absent.	
Free Ammonia	0.0000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen—
Albuminoid Ammonia . .	0.0000	Albuminoid Nitrogen—
Oxygen absorbed in		Free chlorine reaction
4 hours at 27°C . . .	0.0000	absent.

Bacteriological Results.

(Bacteriological sample dechlorinated on collection).

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 14

 1 day at 37°C. 0

 2 days at 37°C. 0

The Bacillus Coli Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welehii Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.

(B. Enteritides Sporogenes)

Report :—This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water has very moderate hardness, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are normal, very satisfactory and consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.**WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.****Mouldsworth Pumping Station.**

11th July, 1945.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 3rd July, 1945 from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station—flamed tap in softening house. Raw water—before chlorination.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness S. Crawford. Date 2/7/45. 11-40 a.m.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.	
Colour	Normal.	Odour Nil.
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.4.	Free Carbonic Acid 1.1.
Electric Conductivity		Alkalinity as Calcium
at 20°C.	1200	Carbonate 19.5
Total Solids, 180°C.	80.0	
Chlorine in Chlorides . .	27.0	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.16	Nitrites Absent
Hardness : Permanent	13.5	
Temporary	17.5	
Total	31.0	
Metals	Iron 0.007	Other metals absent.
Free Ammonia	0.0000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000	Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in		
4 hours at 27°C.	0.005	

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20 C. 1

 1 day at 37 C. 0

 2 days at 37°C. 0

The Bacillus Coli Present in —

Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii Present in —

Absent in 100 c.c.

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)

Report :—This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an abnormal degree, has a high, but not excessive content of salinity and mineral constituents in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are normal, very satisfactory, and consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.**WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.****Prenton Pumping Station.**

11th July, 1945.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 3rd July, 1945, from West Cheshire Water Board. labelled Prenton Pumping Station—Flamed tap in softening house: Raw water—after chlorination.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness W. Leyland. Date 2/7/45. 3-30 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.	
Colour	Normal.	Odour
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.0.	Nil.
Electric Conductivity		Free Carbonic Acid 2.6.
at 20°C.	55.0	Alkalinity as Calcium
Total Solids, 180°C.	37.0	Carbonate .....18.0
Chlorine in Chlorides.....	6.6.	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.30	Nitrites Absent.
Hardness : Permanent	8.5	
Temporary	16.0	
Total	24.5	
Metals	Absent.	
Free Ammonia	0.0032	Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000	Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4		Free chlorine reaction
hours at 27°C.	0.010	absent.

Bacteriological Results.

(Bacteriological sample dechlorinated on collection).

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	21
1 day at 37°C.	0
2 days at 37°C.	0
The Bacillus Coli	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Present in — Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritides Sporogenes).	

Report :—This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are normal, very satisfactory, and consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological Department,
126, Mount Pleasant,
LIVERPOOL, 3.

19th April, 1945.

Report on Three Samples of Water.

Date	Description	Bacteria per c.c. at 37°C.	B. Coli per 100 c.c.	Total Coli- form Organ- isms per 100 c.c.	B. Welchii	Class
16/4/45	Town Supply (Deep Well)	0	0	0	0	I
"	Deep Well (Grange Hill)	0	0	0	0	I
"	Deep Well (Newton Supply)	0	0	0	0	I

Class 1—Highly Satisfactory. Class 2—Satisfactory. Class 3—Suspicious. Class 4—Unsatisfactory.

Signed :—D. T. ROBINSON.

OBSERVATIONS.

PH Value 7.2.

I have analysed the Sample of Water taken by Capt. C. F. Turner in presence of Mr. Roberts on the 16th day of April, 1945, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

The sample was clear, bright, colourless and odourless.

It was free from Lead and Copper and from solid matter in suspension.

The water organically is very pure and is well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

Mark and denomination of the sample	TOWN MAIN	
Total solid matter in solution		44.08
Oxygen required to oxidise	<div> <div></div> <div> in 15 mins. </div> </div>	None.
	<div> <div></div> <div> in 3 hours. </div> </div>	None.
Ammonia		None.
Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with alkaline permanganate		None.
Nitrogen as Nitrates		0.50
Nitrogen as Nitrites		None.
Combined Chlorine		10.40
Hardness expressed in parts per 100,000		
Temporary	10.8	
Permanent	13.6	
Total	24.5	

As witness my hand, this 19th day of April, 1945.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
LIVERPOOL.

Signed : W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., H.C.

OBSERVATIONS.

pH Value 7.1.

The sample was clear, bright, colourless and odourless.

It was free from Lead, Copper and from solid matter in suspension.

The results of the analysis show that the very high state of organic purity remains unaltered.

31

I have analysed the Sample of Water taken by Capt. C. F. Turner in presence of Mr. Roberts on the 16th day of April, 1945, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

Mark and denomination of the sample. GRANGE HILL SUPPLY

Total solid matter in solution.

53.68

(Oxygen required to oxidise

None.

None.

Ammonia
None.

None.

Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with alkaline permanganate

None.

Nitrogen as Nitrates.

0.59

Nitrogen as Nitrites

None.

Combined Chlorine

14.60

Hardness expressed in parts per 100,000

Temporary	.....	9.0
Permanent	....	18.0

18.0

Total 27.0

As witness my hand, this 19th day of April, 1945.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
LIVERPOOL.

Signed :—W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., H.C.

OBSERVATIONS.

I have analysed the Sample of Water taken by Capt. C. F. Turner in presence of Mr. Roberts on the 16th day of April, 1945, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

Mark and denomination of the sample. NEWTON SUPPLY.

Total solid matter in solution.

20.28

Oxygen required to oxidise

{ in 15 mins.
{ in 3 hours.

None.

None.

Ammonia

None.

Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with alkaline permanganate

None.

Nitrogen as Nitrates

0.36

Nitrogen as Nitrites

None.

Combined Chlorine

3.80

Hardness expressed in parts per 100,000

Temporary 12.4
Permanent 7.6

Total 20.0

As witness my hand, this 19th day of April, 1945.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
LIVERPOOL.

Signed :—W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., H.C.

PH Value 7.5.

The sample was clear, bright, colourless and odourless.

It was free from Lead and Copper and from solid matter in suspension.

The results of the analysis show that the very high state of organic purity remains unaltered.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Main sewerage is available to all except the most isolated dwellings.

In anticipation of the extensive building development which is expected during the next few years, the Council have given careful consideration to the main drainage of the district. A Conference has been held with representatives of the County Borough of Birkenhead, the County Borough of Wallasey and the Urban District of Wirral with a view to the total reconstruction of the North Wirral Outfall Sewer which takes the drainage from areas within the above-mentioned Authorities and Greasby. The preparation of the preliminaries of this scheme have reached an advanced stage and it is expected that in the near future an agreement will be reached with regard to implementing it. The Council have also decided to proceed at the earliest possible date with the reconstruction of the main drainage systems of Hoylake and West Kirby, and have included items of expenditure in their five year post-war programme to cover this work. During the past year a new sewer has been laid at Barker Lane, Greasby, which has resulted in ten houses in that road being converted to the water carriage system.

Rivers and Streams.

The most serious cause of pollution was eliminated by the provision of a sewer in Barker Lane, Greasby, whereby the abolition of the unsatisfactory septic tanks was achieved. Other intermittent cases of minor pollution were dealt with as they arose.

Closet Accommodation.

Forty-six dwellings, including twenty which are occupied as summer dwellings only, are provided with closets other than water closets.

Public Cleansing.

Collection is carried out by the Freighter system and disposal by controlled tipping. The refuse is tipped on low lying land at Grange, and approximately one acre of land is being reclaimed each year. Salvage is collected by means of trailers from the householders, and conveyed to the Depot in Carr Lane, Hoylake.

Owing to householders having difficulty in obtaining dustbins, 352 were purchased and issued by the Health Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Compiled With	Outstand'g	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses	851	—	206	162	44	—	—
Dwelling house revisits	462	44	12	49	7	—	—
Housing inspections	15	—	3	3	—	—	—
Housing inspection revisits	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camping	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Privies, earth closets	37	—	11	11	—	—	—
Cesspools	9	1	1	—	2	—	—
Drainage	153	6	93	99	—	—	—
Ditches, watercourses	26	—	1	—	1	—	—
Keeping of animals	34	—	7	7	—	—	—
Offensive trades	12	—	1	1	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' shops	49	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food premises	191	—	26	25	1	—	—
Bakehouses	36	—	4	4	—	—	—
Shops	91	—	5	5	—	—	—
Dairies	140	—	6	5	1	—	—
Cowsheds	65	—	2	2	—	—	—
Offices	15	—	1	1	—	—	—
Factories, workshops	68	—	15	15	—	—	—
Schools	31	—	7	7	—	—	—
Public conveniences	34	—	4	4	—	—	—
Licensed premises	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places of entertainment	16	—	4	4	—	—	—
Smoke abatement	9	—	2	2	—	—	—
Rat infestations	311	—	93	93	—	—	—
Verminous premises	27	—	4	4	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	49	1	23	24	—	—	—
Infectious disease	197	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disinfection	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria immunisation	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supply of bins	397	8	97	105	—	—	—
Ambulance	91	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swimming baths	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply	68	19	41	60	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	97	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice cream	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Building licences	389	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evacuation	38	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4,139	79	669	692	56	—	—

Shops and Offices.

Ninety-one premises were inspected during the year. The five informal notices served were all complied with. Statutory requirements in respect of shop hours, provision of seats, washing facilities, etc. are within the jurisdiction of the Cheshire County Council, and are operated by the County Weights and Measures Department.

Camping Sites.

Bye-laws for the control of Camping Grounds, made in accordance with the provisions of the Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935, are operative for a period of four years. Consent of the Council to the use of land as a Camping Ground was given in one case only, and the Camp concerned was conducted satisfactorily.

Smoke Abatement.

Frequent visits have been paid to factory premises in regard to this matter. Mitigation, rather than complete removal, of nuisance has been all that it has been possible to obtain owing to difficulties of fuel, labour and materials. The renewal of one boiler has led to considerable improvement from the smoke abatement angle.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two open-air public swimming baths in the District, Hoylake Baths and the West Kirby Marine Lake.

Filtration and chlorination plants are installed at the former and routine Chlorotex Tests are carried out, in addition to intermittent bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water.

The following are copies of reports in respect of the latter tests :—

Bacteriologist's Report.

Inlet	Bacteria per c.c. at 37° C.	3
	Bacteria per c.c. at 22° C.	14
	B. Coli per 100 c.c.s.	Nil.
	Total coliform organisms per 100 c.c.s.	1
Outlet.	Bacteria per c.c. at 37° C.	2
	Bacteria per c.c. at 22° C.	33
	B. Coli per 100 c.c.s.	Nil.
	Total coliform organisms per 100 c.c.s.	Nil.

(Signed) D. S. ROBINSON,

Liverpool City Bacteriologist.

28th August, 1945.

COPY OF ANALYST'S REPORT.

I have analysed the Sample of Water received from you per Insp. Meachin on the 23rd day of August, 1945, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

Mark and denomination of the sample

Hoylake Swimming Bath. No. 1 Inlet.

Total solid matter in solution.

2840.0

Oxygen required to oxidise

{ in 15 mins.
 in 3 hours.

0.041

0.105

Ammonia

0.010

Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with }
alkaline permanganate.

0.026

Nitrogen as Nitrates

0.109

Nitrogen as Nitrites

Traces

Combined Chlorine

1384.5

The sample was clear, very faintly yellow and odourless. It contained traces only of suspended matter consisting mainly of vegetable debris and siliceous matter.

As witness my hand, this 28th day of August, 1945.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
LIVERPOOL, 3.

Signed :—W. H. ROBERTS, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

OBSERVATIONS.

Reaction to Litmus—faintly alkaline.
PH value 8.4.

The results of the chemical analysis indicates that the water contains some organic matter of animal origin which has not been fully oxidised. In my opinion, however, the water is suitable for use in a swimming bath. The addition of a little extra Free Chlorine for a period will most probably put matters right.

COPY OF ANALYST'S REPORT.

I have analysed the Sample of Water received from you per Instr. Meachin on the 23rd day of August, 1945, with the following results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—
Mark and denomination of the sample

Hoylake Swimming Bath. No. 2 Outlet.

Total solid matter in solution

2860.0

Oxygen required to oxidise

{ in 15 mins. 0.023
{ in 3 hours. 0.064

Ammonia

0.006

Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with alkaline permanganate

0.018

Nitrogen as Nitrates

0.109

Nitrogen as Nitrites

Traces

Combined Chlorine

1384.5

The sample was clear, very faintly yellow and odourless. It contained a heavy trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris, siliceous matter, fibres and epithelial cells.

As witness my hand, this 28th day of August, 1945.

City Analyst's Laboratories,
Mount Pleasant,
LIVERPOOL, 3.

Signed :—W. H. ROBERTS, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

OBSERVATIONS.

Reaction to Litmus—faintly alkaline.
pH value 8.4.

The results of the chemical analysis indicates that the water contains some organic matter of animal origin which has not been fully oxidised. In my opinion, however, the water is suitable for use in a swimming bath. The addition of a little extra Free Chlorine for a period will most probably put matters right.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a)	Council houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b)	Other houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	8

Number of houses disinfested :—

(a)	Council houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b)	Other houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	8

Method employed :—Spraying with D.D.T. Insecticide.

Schools.

Attention to sanitary defects reported as a result of visits to school premises were carried out promptly. In some cases, however, total reconstruction on modern lines and re-designing of conveniences, including washing facilities, is called for rather than maintenance.

Where, under current usage, day meals are taken at school, the importance of adequate washing facilities is stressed. The Central Cooking Depot at Greasby, at which 2,000 meals are prepared daily, has been visited frequently and improvement in drainage of buildings and floors, arrangements for storing refuse, etc. secured.

Housing.

The District, in common with many others, is suffering from an acute shortage of housing accommodation. The position throughout the country, generally, is a great deal worse than it was in 1919 and the Council are faced with the necessity of an extensive post-war building programme. A measure of the urgency of local needs is indicated by the fact that the number of applicants for Council houses to date is approximately 1,000.

Additional housing accommodation during the war years could be provided only through the adaptation of existing premises. Sixty-one houses were converted into 132 flats during the years 1939-1945. The release of houses which had been requisitioned by Government Departments or had been used for office purposes during the war years eased the position to some degree during the year under review. Certificates of Essentiality to the value of approximately £9,500 were issued in respect of works necessary to render twenty-five de-requisitioned properties fit for private occupation.

Advantage was taken of the requisitioning powers available to local authorities in respect of thirteen houses. Eight families were accommodated in four of these properties by the end of the year and, upon completion of the adaptation of the remaining nine houses, accommodation will have been made available for twenty-nine families.

Four Licenees remain in operation in respect of dwellings which were the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders, permitting their occupation as a temporary expedient.

The cessation of hostilities brought the removal of the embargo on new building. The Council have been members of a group scheme for the advance preparation of housing sites in Wirral since May, 1944, and since that date approximately seventeen acres of land on Black Horse Hill have been acquired for housing. The Council have, so far, decided to erect 170 houses under the Housing Acts on this site in addition to ten houses which are now under construction in Carr Lane, Hoylake. Licenses were issued to private builders for the erection of forty-six houses. Three were completed by the end of the year, the remainder being in various stages of construction.

In respect of the accumulation of arrears of building repair and maintenance work, the difficulty of owners of property in securing prompt attention to such works owing to shortage of building labour and materials has given rise to a great increase in the number of complaints made to this Department by tenants, in an effort to secure more speedy rectification of sanitary defects. There are few recalcitrant property owners in this area and, under normal conditions, prompt compliance with Notices is readily obtainable without recourse to the process of the law. In view of this, the attitude of the Department has been to assist property owners to the maximum extent by the prompt issue of Licenses and Permits for the purchase of materials. Furthermore, it was considered that any assistance given in the licensing of works of repair and maintenance for owner-occupiers would benefit public health and, as a result, the Health Department has been responsible for all inspections to establish the essentiality of works of repair and maintenance. 342 Licences for repair of properties were issued.

In respect of Notices to secure the remedy of defects to dwelling-houses recourse was again made to powers under the Public Health Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are twenty-five cow-keepers on the register, twenty being wholesale purveyors and five ~~purveyors~~ of milk. Tuberculin Tested milk is produced from the largest herd, and sixteen producers hold Accredited Licences. In several other cases, little remains to be provided in the way of equipment and alterations to shippens in order to comply with County Council standard for issue of Accredited Licences but the producers concerned have not seen fit to apply for Licences to date, despite the monetary advantage which would accrue. It is noted, in retrospect, that it is now ten years since the first producer in this District applied for a specification of the work required to raise his shippens and dairy to the standards required for Accredited milk production. One has noted with satisfaction the immense improvement which has taken place since that date, not only in connection with the raising of standards of existing shippens and dairies but in the adaptation of additional buildings, a great deal of which has been carried out during the difficult war years. The value of routine methods of clean milk production has been generally realised by producers and the coercive attitude formerly required of the Inspector to obtain compliance with the law in that behalf has no longer to be adopted so frequently. The co-operation of the County Council Inspectors, where Accredited premises have been involved, has been rendered promptly and willingly in all cases and was greatly appreciated.

Results of the examinations of samples of milk taken from local sources of supply for compliance with the standards of Designated milk showed twenty-four satisfactory and eight failures in respect of either the B. Coli or Methylene Blue Test. Re-visits to the farm premises and follow-up sampling was adopted to secure subsequent compliance. Biological samples showed twenty-seven negative and two positive B. Tubercle. An outbreak of enteric infection among the laboratory animals limited the number of samples which could be accepted by the laboratory. Twenty samples from external sources of supply showed one to be positive. The necessary steps were taken to eliminate the affected animals. In addition to the above, twenty-four samples from external sources were examined for compliance with bacteriological standards for Designated milk. Six failed to comply, two in respect of Pasteurised milk. The whole of the Pasteurised supply to the area, now some 60% of the district consumption, is derived from external establishments.

There are nineteen dairymen and retail purveyors of milk. The process of the absorption of the smaller dairy by the larger concerns has again been the cause of the reduction in the numbers on the

register. The largest suppliers retail Pasteurised or Heat Treated milk. Efforts through the medium of an amalgamation of certain of the smaller dairymen to provide a centralised pasteurisation and bottling depot has not yet produced results. Meanwhile certain of the old-established dairy premises cannot be adapted as modern, all-purpose dairies with facilities for heat-treatment, sterilisation, bottle washing, filling and refrigeration storage. The solution of the problem seems to lie in collective action on the lines indicated above.

Designated Milk Licences were granted as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested Dealers' Licences	13
Tuberculin Tested Supplementary Licences	1
Pasteurised Supplementary Licences	2

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat Inspection.

Home killed meat sold in this district is derived from an abattoir operated by the Ministry of Food at Bebington. Since several other districts are also served by this establishment, inspection involves practically the whole-time presence of one of the Bebington Inspectors and this Council, in common with the other areas, contribute towards his salary.

Meat which was found on routine examination at local butchers' shops to be unfit for human consumption was returned to the above abattoir for bulk condemnation and salvage. The only consignment so returned during the year comprised some 480 7-lb. tins of corned beef which was called in on the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

Two premises were licensed by the Council as slaughterhouses, subject to necessary works of improvement being carried out as and when slaughtering becomes decentralised. Seven slaughtermen's licences were issued.

Food Premises.

Considerable time has been taken up by visits to food premises, following requests by retailers for the issue of Surrender Notes which are the pre-requisites for the replacement of supplies and points by the Food Control Authorities. The following is a list of food surrendered :—

Type of Food	Quantity	Reason for Condemnation
Canned Meat	31 tins.	Blown. Perforated.
Meat Products	18 lbs.	Damaged.
	10 jars.	Blown. Decomposed.
Sausages	24 lbs.	Decomposed.
Meat Pies	270	Decomposed.
Canned Soup	64 tins.	Blown. Contaminated.
		Perforated.
Gravy	12 pkts.	Contaminated.
Bacon	35 lbs.	Decomposed.
Canned Fish	223 tins.	Blown. Perforated.
		Decomposed.
Fish Paste	23 jars	Decomposed. Mould.
Fish Cakes	82	Decomposed.
Canned Vegetables	93 tins	Blown. Perforated.
Vegetables	857 lbs.	Decomposed.
Canned Fruit	177 tins	Blown.
Dried Fruit	270 pkts.	Mould. Decomposed.
		Contaminated.
Fruit	1,555 lbs.	Decomposed.
Canned Jam	20 tins	Damaged. Blown.
		Perforated.
Jam	37 jars	Damaged. Decomposed.
		Contaminated.
Cheese	72½ lbs.	Mould.
Butter	24½ lbs.	Rancid.
Lard	56 lbs.	Decomposed.
Pickles	22 jars	Decomposed. Damaged.
Sauce	1 bottle	Damaged.
Cereal Mixture	12 jars	Mould.
	63 pkts.	Mite infestation.
	13 tins	Blown.
Canned Milk	147 tins	Blown. Perforated.
		Damaged. Contaminated.
Malted Milk	81 tins	Mite infestation.
Sugar	8 lbs.	Contaminated.
Chocolate	49 blocks	Contaminated.
Ice Cream Powder	22 tins	Contaminated.

Disposal was carried out with due regard to the salvage aspect.

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

**List of Samples obtained in the Hoylake Urban District during
the year ended 31st December, 1945.**

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised stand- ard of quality.
Aspirins	1	—
Arrowroot	1	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Butter	3	—
Black Pepper	1	—
Bacon	2	—
Cheese	1	—
Cooking Fat	3	—
Coffee & Chicory	1	—
Calamine Lotion	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—
French Coffee	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Force meat	2	—
Glycerine	1	—
Golden Raising Powder	1	—
Glycerine & Rose Water	1	—
Glycerine, Lemon & Honey	1	—
Milks	42	2
Margarine	3	—
Parsley, dried	1	—
Semolina	1	—
Sugar	2	—
Sweets	3	—
Saccharin	3	—
Sage, dried	1	—
Treacle Toffee	1	—
Tea	2	—
Vegetable Soup	1	—
Vinegar	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
TOTALS	86	2

Particulars of Samples Certified as Non-Standard.

Article	Analysis	Remarks
1. Milk	2.3% deficient in Non-fatty Solids.	No action taken as sample was genuine but abnormal.
2. Milk	3.5% deficient in Non-fatty Solids.	No action taken as sample was genuine but abnormal.

Shellfish.

Shellfish layings are located on the Hoylake Foreshore at Spencer's Spit (cockles), adjoining Hilbre Island (mussels), and a third (cockles) has recently developed below Tanskey Rocks at West Kirby.

By an amended Order which came into operation on 1st July, 1944, the prescribed area from which the taking of mussels and cockles is prohibited for sale for human consumption is delineated as "The foreshore of the River Mersey on the Cheshire side thereof between the Manchester Ship Canal and the Red Stones at Hoylake, the western limit being the boundary of the Customs Port of Liverpool, *i.e.* an imaginary line drawn approximately north-north-east true from Hilbre Point to join a line drawn from Formby Point in a true north-north-westerly direction and extending to a distance of three miles from low water mark along the coast within the aforesaid limits."

The responsible Authority, under the Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934, is the Liverpool Port Health Authority. This Order has reference to the major part of the first mentioned laying only. The taking of shellfish from the other two, which comes within the jurisdiction of the Chester Port Health Authority, is not the subject of any Order made under the Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

By virtue of a direction served upon the Council under the provisions of the Infestation Order, 1943, the Ministry of Food required treatment of all sewers in the district for the eradication of rats despite the fact that there was no evidence of such infestation. It was agreed that test baiting of man-holes should be adopted as a means of ascertaining if such infestation did, in fact, exist. 700 man-holes were treated in this fashion in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Food and, since "No take" was registered in every instance, the direction was lifted.

The Council acts as agent for the Cheshire County Council in respect of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, in regard to the built-up areas of the district only, the agricultural holdings and railway property being excluded. One Rat Catcher is employed, his wages being borne by the County Council in respect of treatment of properties other than those which are Council owned. Ninety-three complaints of minor infestation were dealt with during the year in addition to routine inspection and treatment of focal points of infestation.

Scabies.

Twenty-six cases of scabies were dealt with at the Cleansing Station at "Eastfield Hostel," all cases being examined by a Doctor before and after treatment.

The County Education Committee re-imbursed the cost of treatment of school children to the amount of ten shillings per case.

The Matron in charge and staff rendered great service in treating cases voluntarily since the closing of Cleveland Sick Bay and their efforts have been effective in limiting the incidence of scabies to such small proportions.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) FOR THE YEAR 1945.

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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
	At ages—Years											
	Total Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	75	2	7	46	13	5	1	1	—	51	—	
Diphtheria	25	—	4	13	2	2	4	—	—	25	—	
Pneumonia	8	—	—	1	1	—	2	3	1	2	12	
Measles	197	4	31	97	28	3	—	—	—	10	—	
Whooping Cough	16	—	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	
Typhoid	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	13	1	—	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
TOTALS	343	5	38	172	45	11	10	6	3	95	14	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The figures in the preceding table include the following cases of infectious disease which occurred at the various institutions in the district, *i.e.*, Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, The Ellen Gonner Home, Hoylake, Eastfield (Evacuee Hostel), Hoylake, and the Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage, Frankby.

Age	Disease				Totals
	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—
1—3	—	—	—	4	—
3—5	2	3	1	5	3
5—10	11	13	1	11	8
10—15	—	1	—	3	1
15—25	2	2	—	—	1
TOTALS	15	19	2	23	13
					72

CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1945.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Hoylake
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Notifications :—					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.16
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	3.03
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	0.65
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	1.01
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	7.95
Pneumonia	1.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.32
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
Notifications :—					
Puerperal Fever	} 9.93	12.65	3.81	3.60	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.87	

*Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held during 1945.			12
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation during 1945.	Age at date of final injection.		Total
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	
	168	28	196
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection during 1945.	1		

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31/12/45 <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5—9 1936- 1940	10—14 1931- 1935	Total under 15
Number Immunised	7	84	112	115	122	792	850	2,082
Estimated mid-year population 1945.	1,800					3,420		5,220
Percentage immunised to child population.	24.4%					48.0%		39.9%

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

Notifications			Deaths		
Age at date of Notification	Number of Cases Notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	1	1	3	—	—
4	3	—	4	—	—
5 to 9	13	1	5 to 9	—	—
10 to 14	2	—	10 to 14	—	—
TOTALS	19	2	TOTALS	—	—

Note : Of the cases notified, 17 were non-residents, *i.e.*, inmates of Children's Institutions.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1945 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
15—25 years	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—
25—35 years	6	6	—	—	1	2	—	—
35—45 years	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65 years	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	18	9	2	2	6	5	1	1

Note :—9 of the Male Pulmonary cases notified are ex-Servicemen.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1945.	63	49	112	32	32	64	176
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1945.	16	5	21	1	2	3	24
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations	2	4	6	1	—	1	7
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	14	5	19	1	1	2	21
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1945.	67	53	120	33	33	66	186

NESTON URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	8,497
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1945)	8,715
Number of inhabited houses	2,571
Rateable value	£71,186
Sum represented by a penny rate	£285

Until a new census is taken, the estimate of the population must be regarded as provisional.

The area is residential and agricultural. The aforesaid occupation of fishing still predominates at Parkgate. There are a number of scholastic institutions. Light industries of a type new to the district have been established.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1939—1945 in Neston :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.	
1939	8,606	28 more births than deaths	+3.3
1940	8,956	39 more births than deaths	+4.4
1941	9,468	28 more births than deaths	+3.0
1942	9,645	17 more births than deaths	+1.8
1943	9,275	61 more births than deaths	+6.6
1944	8,897	51 more births than deaths	+5.7
1945	8,715	45 more births than deaths	+5.2

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1945.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 8,715, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	126	64	62
Illegitimate	13	9	4
Totals	139	73	66

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .....	.....	16.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales .....	.....	16.1
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000) .....	.....	19.2

Stillbirths.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	.....	7.1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales .....	.....	27.5

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	94	44	50

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population .....	.....	10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales .....	.....	11.4
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000) .....	.....	12.3

The Registrar-General has not supplied a Comparability Factor since 1940, because the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors have been suspended for the present.

The absence of a Comparability Factor precludes a comparison between the former two rates.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil.	—
Other maternal causes	Nil.	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	3

All infants per 1,000 live births 43.2

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 47.6

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.0

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 46.0

Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and
Wales (population 25,000—50,000) 43.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil.

Number of Deaths during Years 1939—1945.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum
1939	117	13.3
1940	117	13.1
1941	117	12.4
1942	118	12.2
1943	109	11.7
1944	120	13.5
1945	94	10.8

Deaths at Various Ages During 1945.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	6
1 year and under 2	1
2 years and under 5	1
5 years and under 15	—
15 years and under 25	—
25 years and under 35	3
35 years and under 45	3
45 years and under 55	12
55 years and under 65	17
65 years and under 75	21
75 years and under 85	17
85 years and over	13
Total	94

54.3% of the deaths were of persons over the age of 65 years.

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1939—1945.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Neston	England and Wales
1939	40.5	50
1940	30.7	55
1941	72.4	59
1942	22.2	49
1943	41.1	49
1944	64.3	46
1945	43.2	46

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 43 in 1945.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	6

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	—	1	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
15. Cancer of breast	—	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	4	3	7
17. Diabetes	—	1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	2	7	9
19. Heart disease	20	19	39
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	1	2	3
21. Bronchitis	2	2	4
22. Pneumonia	5	3	8
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	2	—	2
28. Nephritis	—	3	3
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	—	—
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	1	1	2
33. Suicide	—	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
35. Other violent causes	1	2	3
36. All other causes	2	4	6
TOTALS	44	50	94

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1945 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
						Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate	Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	
1939	8,606	145	16.9	15.0	92	6	31	6	40.5	50	117	13.3	13.7	12.1	+ 28
1940	8,956	156	17.4	14.6	90	8	35	5	30.7	55	117	13.1	12.4	14.3	+ 39
1941	9,468	145	15.3	14.2	92	14	39	11	72.4	59	117	12.4		12.9	+ 28
1942	9,645	135	14.0	15.8	100	19	37	3	22.2	49	118	12.2		11.6	+ 17
1943	9,275	170	18.3	16.5	68	8	49	7	41.1	49	109	11.7		12.1	+ 61
1944	8,897	171	19.2	17.6	79	12	53	11	64.3	46	120	13.5		11.6	+ 51
1945	8,715	139	16.0	16.1	71	9	32	6	43.2	46	94	10.8		11.4	+ 45

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

A private laboratory is employed for the routine examination of clinical material and for the investigation of disease.

Food and Drugs throughout the District are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Water supplies, swimming baths and sewage effluents are investigated for the Council by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The Municipal Laboratories at Birkenhead are employed for the examination of milk samples.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provides an Ambulance. Two hundred and eighty-four patients were dealt with during the year.

Clatterbridge County General Hospital, telephone Thornton Hough 341 (for the transport of accident, sick and maternity cases to Clatterbridge Hospital).

Merseyside Hospitals Council Ambulance is available to subscribers (removals).

Nursing in the Home.

The following organisations provide the services of a District Nurse :—

The Neston and Parkgate District Nursing Association—Queen's Nurse.

The Burton and Puddington District Nursing Association.

The Willaston District Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held in the Town Hall, Neston, on the third Thursday of each month at 2-30 p.m. Supplementary Clinics are also arranged from time to time as required.

Scabies treatment is given by arrangement in the Out-Patients' Department of the Neston Cottage Hospital.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

	Each Month.	Time.
Child Welfare.	Every Thursday.	2-30 p.m.
Wesleyan Church School-room, Neston.		
School Clinic.	Every Wednesday.	2-30 p.m.
Wesleyan Church School-room, Neston.		
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	Every Friday.	9-30 a.m.
Out-Patients' Department County General Hospital, Clatterbridge.		
Tuberculosis Dispensary.		
42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.	Every Tuesday and Friday.	2-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.	Males.	
Birkenhead General Hospital.	Monday, Wednesday and Friday.	5-30—7-0 p.m.
	Females.	
	Tuesday.	5-30— 7-0 p.m.
	Wednesday and Friday.	2-0—4-0 p.m.
Chester Royal Infirmary.	Males.	
	Wednesday.	5-0—7-0 p.m.
	Saturday.	12-0—2-0 p.m.
	Females.	
	Monday and Thursday.	5-0—7-0 p.m.

Hospitals.

Voluntary.

The Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital has 25 beds and 2 cots. It is equipped for general surgery, and has Massage and Out-Patient Departments. It is staffed by local Medical Practitioners and visiting Consultants.

The Voluntary Hospitals in Chester, Birkenhead and Liverpool admit patients from this District.

Public.

Isolation Hospital.

The Neston Urban District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board. The Board's Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge has accommodation for 100 patients. The Hospital has modern cubicle wards and a new nurses' home was constructed in 1937. Infectious patients from this area are treated in the hospital where necessary, and under certain conditions beds may be available for measles and whooping cough cases. At Pensby there is a hospital with 12 beds for convalescent scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board have an arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority for the admission of smallpox patients to the Smallpox Hospital at New Ferry.

General.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge has been extended and modernised during recent years, and now offers comprehensive services for the investigation and treatment of sickness to residents of this District. The Hospital contains 430 beds, including 34 beds in the Maternity Block, and the hospital has a large staff of resident practitioners and visiting consultants.

Mortuaries.

There is a mortuary at the Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital.

Legislation in Force.

Adopted Acts.

1. Infectious Disease (Prevention Act) 1890.
2. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Parts 3, 4).
3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.
4. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts 1900.
5. Public Health Act 1925, Part 2, except s. 20.

Bye-Laws.

1. New Streets and Buildings 1930.
2. Offensive Trades 1929.
3. Drainage of Buildings 1933.
4. Nuisances 1938.
5. Slaughterhouses 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board.

The position in relation to the Council's new borehole is as described in the Report for 1944.

Frequent sampling of raw and chlorinated water is done. Typical analyses of both are given below.

None of the waters supplied in the area have a plumbo solvent action, and the Analysts' reports have revealed no evidence of contamination.

The Council's supplies are not softened, and have a hardness of 22, expressed in parts per 100,000. Softening of the West Cheshire Water Supply is carried out to the extent indicated on page 25.

In December, owing to the fracture of a feed pipe, a quantity of fuel oil gained access to the borehole and the water exhibited varying degrees of contamination for about two weeks. Samples taken at the time suggested that the amount of oil present was minute. The Council's Analyst reported that the water was innocuous except perhaps to sensitive palates, when it might give rise to nausea. Pumping to waste and flushing of the mains eventually cleared away all traces of the contaminating material.

Complaints were received from residents in the Willaston area, which is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board, of intermittent discolouration of the supply. A sample was taken and the Analyst reported that the water was discoloured, though not unwholesome.

Every house, with one exception, has a piped supply from the public mains. Details are given below :—

			Dwelling Houses	Population
(a)	House direct	.. ..	2,570	8,710
(b)	Standpipes	.....	—	—

Analyst's Report.

11th May, 1945.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 3rd May, 1945 from
NESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Labelled Rising Main from Borehole—Waterworks, Little Neston.

Date 1/5/45. 11-10 a.m.

Taken by A. E. Prince. Witness W. Lawton. Signed A. E. Prince.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000

Appearance	Bright with very few particles of mineral debris.		
	Turbidity :	Less than 5 parts per million,	
	Silica Scale.		
Colour	Normal.	Odour	Nil..
Reaction pH.	Neutral. 7.1.	Free Carbonic Acid	1.6
Electric Conductivity		Total Solids dried at	
at 20°C.	460	180 C.	31.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.5	Alkalinity as Calcium	
		Carbonate	14.0
Hardness : Total	22.0	Temporary	12.0
		Permanent	10.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.68	Nitrogen in Nitrites	
		Absent.	
Free Ammonia	0.0000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in			
4 hours at 27°C.	0.005		
Metals	Absent.		

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria	} 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.		
growing on Agar per			
cc. or ml. in	0	0	12
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	—	Absent 100c.c.
Bact. Coli	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present	—	Absent 100c.c.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an abnormal degree, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) Charles W. Martin, F.R.I.C.

(Signed) Gordon Miles, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

11th May, 1945.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of Water received 3/5/45 from NESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Labelled Supply Main (Chlorinated) Waterworks, Little Neston.

Date 1/5/45. 10-20 a.m.

Taken by A. E. Prince. Witness W. Lawton. Signed A. E. Prince.
(Sample dechlorinated on collection).

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per per c.c. or ml. in	}	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
		0	0	3
Presumptive Coliform Reaction		Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Bact. Coli		Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction		Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) Charles W. Martin, F.R.I.C.

(Signed) Gordon Miles, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Analyst's Report.

24th August, 1945.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 19th August, 1945 from NESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Labelled Scullery tap, Fieldgate, Mill Lane, Willaston.

Date 17/8/45. 11-15 a.m.

Taken by A. E. Prince. Witness Miss Clayton. Signed A. E. Prince.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Very faint opalescence—very slight deposit— amorphous debris—no life or organised growth. Turbidity : 5 parts per million, Silica Scale.		
Colour	Yellow-brown	Odour	Nil.
	Hazen. 50.		
Reaction pH.	Neutral. 7.3.	Free Carbonic Acid	0.08
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	90	Total Solids dried at 180°C.	7.0

Chlorine in Chlorides	0.8	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	1.0
Hardness : Total	3.5	Temporary	0.0.
		Permanent	3.5.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent.
Free Ammonia	0.0008	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	--
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0066.	Albuminoid Nitrogen	--
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.310		
Metals	Total Iron 0.02, in solution 0.01.		
	Manganese : Less than 0.005. Other metals absent. 'Free chlorine reaction' Absent.		

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37 C.	3 days at 20°C.
	9	16	80
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Bact. Coli	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance but has distinct colour. The water is neutral in reaction, soft in character, contains comparatively little mineral constituents in solution and only minute traces of iron and manganese. The colour is due to organic matter of vegetable origin and the water is of satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) Gordon Miles, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extension of the sewers are necessary in order that the number of cesspools and so-called septic tanks may be reduced. There are some 281 of these private disposal plants in the area and they are the subject of constant complaints. During the year two cesspools were abolished and the premises connected to the main sewers.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have reported upon the necessary sewer extensions.

The prevailing type of septic tank is one in which the filtering medium is constantly submerged, and the effluent from such an apparatus is inevitably foul, as the filter is unable either to carry out its biological function or to aerate the tank liquor. It is suggested that wherever possible the recommendations contained in the Technical Appendices to the Housing Manual relating to private disposal plants should be adopted.

Rivers and Streams.

A stream at Willaston is polluted by the effluent from a sewage disposal works, and steps are being taken to withdraw the effluent from the stream.

Closet Accommodation.

The 37 privy middens in the former colliery area are still in existence, and constitute a constant source of annoyance to the residents. Towards the end of the year a scheme for their abolition was in course of preparation.

Public Cleansing.

Removal of house refuse is carried out by the Urban District Council. One motor vehicle and one horse drawn vehicle are employed.

Disposal is by controlled tipping. The present tipping site is rapidly becoming filled and steps are necessary to secure additional accommodation.

Salvage.

The following table shows the material dealt with during the year :—

Material	Tons	Weight Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	36	17	3	236	9	9
Bones	1	9	0	7	8	1
Metal	9	11	0	14	6	8
Rags	1	11	2	15	13	6
Bottles		284 dozen.		14	4	0
	49	9	1	288	2	0

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Compiled With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwellingshouses :							
Inspected on Complaints	242	3	43	39	7	—	—
Re Infectious Disease	72	—	2	2	—	—	—
Housing Acts on Com- plaints	16	—	5	4	1	—	—
House to house Inspections	54	2	16	18	—	—	—
Overcrowding	10	—	3	3	—	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds	8	—	1	1	—	—	—
Factories	86	—	18	17	1	—	—
Theatres & Cinemas	12	1	—	—	1	—	—
Cowsheds	180	1	27	26	2	—	—
Dairies	25	—	2	1	1	—	—
Milk Samples	6	—	2	2	—	—	—
Premises used for							
Preparation of Food	155	—	17	13	4	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Samples	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	25	—	6	5	1	—	—
Schools	62	—	5	4	1	—	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc.	23	—	3	3	—	—	—
Back Passages	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
Drains inspected	18	—	15	15	—	—	—
" smoke tested	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" water tested	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks & cesspools	94	1	34	33	2	—	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	224	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	41	—	10	9	1	—	—
Rats & Mice Destruction	225	—	45	45	—	—	—
Pools, Ditches and Watercourses	36	—	4	3	1	—	—
Privy Middens	170	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Bins	36	2	23	23	2	—	—
Scabies	50	20	20	40	—	—	—
Sewage effluent samples	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous persons cleansed	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	1,912	30	304	309	25	—	—

Shops and Offices.

Inspections under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, were made to secure compliance with the provisions of the Section.

Camping Sites.

No Licences were granted during the year under Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The transient use of roadside wastes and accommodation roads by itinerant van dwellers continues to be a cause of annoyance, and the provisions of the Public Health Act are quite inadequate to contest these wanderers. Only by the threatened exercise of imaginary powers, together with close liaison with the police, is any improvement secured. Legislation is needed in order to deal with these people.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, dealing with smoke nuisances.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is a privately owned bath at Parkgate. No samples were taken during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
(b) Other Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Number of Houses Disinfested :—

(a) Council Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
(b) Other Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Method employed :—Use of a proprietary insecticide.

The new insecticide D.D.T. (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) did not become available sufficiently early to be used in the infestation reported above.

Schools.

All the elementary schools in the area are supplied from the public water supply. All have water closets, but some are of the trough type. The provision of a standard type of wash down pedestal closet with individual flushing cisterns should be considered, and the children instructed in their proper use.

The provision of washing facilities is often inadequate, and the inadequacy is emphasised by the fact that many children now take their mid-day meal at school. In some instances the accommodation consists of enamelled iron basins sunk in a wooden surround, which rapidly becomes foul. Here too, the advantages of providing a range of modern porcelain enamelled lavatory basins with hot, in addition to cold, water would speedily become evident.

The condition of some of the schools is such that no hygienist would care to defend them. They are obviously out of accord with present day ideas, and suffer from fundamental defects in relation to lighting, ventilation and heating, apart from their deficiencies in sanitary accommodation, to which reference is made above.

The dining-hall used by the children attending the Little Neston C. of E. School, to which reference was made in the Report for 1944, remains in use despite the most energetic protests and representations. Its daily use by upwards of 120 children is absolutely indefensible on hygienic, educational or humanitarian grounds. During the year plans were presented for the erection of a dining-hall within the school precincts, and it is to be hoped that these plans will expeditiously be translated to concrete reality.

Housing.

The housing situation is of the utmost gravity. The Council secured authority to acquire compulsorily land for the erection of 150 houses and negotiations for the acquisition of land for temporary houses are taking place.

No attempt can be made to deal with the groups of houses which would normally fall to be dealt with as unfit for human habitation. In fact it has to be recorded that three cottages, the subject of Clearance Orders in 1934, have been re-occupied, and another which was the subject of an undertaking by the owner is also re-occupied.

Two cottages, utterly derelict, at Ness, which were the subject of the Neston Clearance Order No. 11, were demolished during the year.

In August, 1945, responsibility for the licensing of housing work within certain limits was placed upon the Council by the Ministry of Works. Up to the end of the year 80 licences were issued authorising the expenditure of £6,447, together with the necessary certificates to purchase controlled materials.

In addition licences were issued authorising the erection of 10 dwellings by private builders. 16 Certificates of Essentiality were issued in cases where the Council could not issue a licence. The expenditure involved amounted to £4,003.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 39 registered producers, 24 of whom are "accredited" and 4 "attested."

4 Licenses authorising the use of special designations were granted as follows :—

To

Sell Accredited milk	1
Sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	1
Bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested	1
Sell Pasteurised milk—supplementary	3
Sell Tuberculin Tested (Certified)— supplementary	1
Total	7

Milk Sampling.

Designation	B. Coli		Plate Count		Methy- lene Blue		Phos- phatase		Tubercle Bacilli	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative
Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Certified	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculin Tested	3	2	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
TOTAL	4	3	—	—	8	1	2	—	—	7

Meat and Other Foods.

The following table shows the quantity of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Article Condemned	Weight in lbs.	Reason for Condemnation
Canned meat & meat products	112	Blown & punctured containers
Canned fish	85	Blown containers
Canned fruit & vegetables	113	Blown cans
Canned milk	32	Blown cans
Cereals	4	Weevil infested
Lard	7	Contaminated with oil
Cheese	11	Mould
Butter	63	Rancid
Fish	70	Decomposing
Total weight in lbs.	497	

Condemnation Certificates in the form requested by the Ministry of Food (Form M/Cond'n/1) were supplied in each case, and the condemned material was appropriately dealt with, due regard being paid to Ministry of Health Circular 2886 of 17th November, 1943, in this connection.

Adulteration.

Control of the sophistication etc. of food and drugs is in the hands of the Cheshire County Council.

Particulars of samples obtained in the Neston Urban District during 1945 are given below :—

**List of Samples obtained in The Neston Urban District
during the Year ended 31st December, 1945.**

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Cake	1	—
Cake Mixture	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Diebetic Lemon Squash	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Milks	13	2
Meat Paste	1	—
Mustard	1	—
Meat Pie	1	—
Semolina	2	1
Saccharin	1	—
Self Raising Flour	1	—
Salt	1	—
Vinegar	1	—
Zinc Ointment	2	—
Totals	31	3

Particulars of Samples Certified as Non-Standard.

Article	Analysis	Remarks
1. Milk	13% deficient in fat.	Seller cautioned.
2. Sweetened semolina	Devoid of sweetening and contained insufficient cocoa to impart flavour.	Seller cautioned.
3. Milk	4.7% of extraneous water.	Seller cautioned.

Shellfish.

There are no layings within the district.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.**Infestation Order, 1943.**

The scheme outlined in last year's report continues to function satisfactorily, and there is now no known major or reservoir infestation on premises within the jurisdiction of the Council.

Fifteen occupiers of business and domestic premises availed themselves of the services of the rat-catcher.

During the year a direction of the Ministry of Food to treat the sewers was received. It was contended that the sewers harboured no rat population and the Ministry eventually agreed to a test bait being carried out. Twenty-one manholes were baited on two consecutive days and in one instance the bait was taken. This manhole was treated with poison bait and subsequent test baiting the entire section of sewer gave negative results.

The Ministry of Food agreed to raise the Direction to Treat as a result of these operations.

Scabies.

60 cases of scabies received treatment at the Out-patients' Department of the Neston Cottage Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROLS OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1945.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years											
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever	13	—	1	2	4	3	1	1	1	—	8	—	
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	8	
Measles	15	—	1	2	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	35	—	2	4	16	5	2	3	3	—	12	8	

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns in- cluding London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Neston
Notifications :—	Rates per	1,000 Civilian	Population	:—	
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	1.49
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	0.11
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.34
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	1.72
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.23
Notifications :—	Rates per	1,000 Total Births (Live	and Still) :—		
Puerperal Fever	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.87*	

*Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held during 1945.			8
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation during 1945.	Age at date of final injection		Total
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	
	85	8	93
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection during 1945.	Nil.		

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31/12/45 i.e. Born in Year.	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5—9 1936— 1940	10—14 1931— 1935	Total under 15
Number Immunised	2	54	53	60	67	413	532	1,181
Estimated mid-year population 1945.	719					1,320		2,039
Percentage immunised to child population.	33%					71%		57%

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in Relation to Immunisation

Notifications			Deaths		
Age at Date of Notification	Number of Cases Notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at Date of Death	Number of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	—
4	—	—	4	—	—
5 to 9	1	1	5 to 9	—	—
10 to 14	2	1	10 to 14	—	—
TOTALS	3	2	TOTALS	—	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1945 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	—	1	1	1	—	—

Note :—2 of the Male Pulmonary cases notified are ex-Servicemen.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1945.	17	15	32	11	14	25	57
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1945.	6	2	8	—	1	1	9
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	2	2	4	—	—	—	4
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1945.	21	16	37	11	15	26	63

WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1945)	15,800
Number of inhabited houses	4,589
Rateable Value	£140,890
Sum represented by a penny rate	£573

The district is residential. Agriculture, fishing and building trade industries engage a large number of persons. There is a tendency now to the establishment of light industries.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1939—1945 in Wirral :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population	
1939	13,170	122 more births than deaths	+9.3
1940	17,190	92 more births than deaths	+5.4
1941	18,130	27 more births than deaths	+1.5
1942	17,390	78 more births than deaths	+4.5
1943	16,400	78 more births than deaths	+4.8
1944	16,020	103 more births than deaths	+6.4
1945	15,800	84 more births than deaths	+5.3

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1945.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 15,800, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	268	132	136
Illegitimate	11	4	7
Totals	279	136	143

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	17.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.1
Birth Rate in 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000)	19.2

Stillbirths.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	1	3
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Totals	6	2	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	21.1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	27.5

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	195	104	91

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ..	12.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.4
Death Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales, (population 25,000—50,000) ..	12.3

The Registrar-General has not supplied a Comparability Factor since 1940, because the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors have been suspended for the present.

The absence of a Comparability Factor precludes a comparison between the former two rates.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil.	—
Other maternal causes	Nil.	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	7	5	2

All infants per 1,000 live births	25.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.2 ³
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	90.9
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	46.0
Infant Mortality Rate for 148 Smaller Towns, England and Wales (population 25,000—50,000)	43.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil.

Number of Deaths during Years 1939—1945.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum
1939	160	11.9
1940	171	9.9
1941	218	12.0
1942	189	10.9
1943	185	11.2
1944	203	12.7
1945	195	12.3

Deaths at Various Ages During 1945.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	7
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	2
5 years and under 15	2
15 years and under 25	2
25 years and under 35	1
35 years and under 45	13
45 years and under 55	16
55 years and under 65	33
65 years and under 75	47
75 years and under 85	54
85 years and over	18
Total	195

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1939—1945.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Wirral	England and Wales
1939	30.5	50
1940	59.7	55
1941	58.4	59
1942	26.2	49
1943	41.8	49
1944	22.9	46
1945	25.1	46

The Infant Mortality Rate in the 148 Smaller Towns was 43 in 1945.

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Exfoliative Dermatitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Mal-formation, Birth Injuries & Infantile Diseases.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Total	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	7

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro spinal fever	1	—	1
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7	3	10
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of baccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	—	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
15. Cancer of breast	—	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	9	20
17. Diabetes	—	1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	13	9	22
19. Heart disease	26	36	62
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	7	4	11
21. Bronchitis	4	2	6
22. Pneumonia	6	2	8
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	2	3
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	4	5
28. Nephritis	3	2	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	—	—
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	1	1	2
33. Suicide	2	—	2
34. Road traffic accidents	1	—	1
35. Other violent causes	1	1	2
36. All other causes	15	11	26
TOTALS	104	91	195

Summary of Vital Statistics for 1945 and Previous Years.

LIVE BIRTHS				DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)	
Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Transferable			Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
					Total Number Registered in District	Non-Residents Registered in District	Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate England & Wales	Standard Rate for Comparison England & Wales		Rate England & Wales
1939	13,170	291	22.1	15.0	169	52	52	9	30.5	50	169	11.9	12.0	12.1	+ 122
1940	17,190	263	15.3	14.6	181	82	72	18	59.7	55	171	9.9	9.3	14.3	- 92
1941	18,130	245	13.5	14.2	258	113	73	15	58.4	59	218	12.0		12.9	+ 27
1942	17,390	267	15.4	15.8	204	80	65	7	26.2	49	189	10.9		11.6	178
1943	16,400	263	16.0	16.5	176	66	75	11	41.8	49	185	11.2		12.1	+78
1944	16,020	306	19.1	17.6	182	49	70	7	22.9	46	203	12.7		11.6	+103
1945	15,800	279	17.7	16.1	181	55	69	7	25.1	46	195	12.3		11.4	+84

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities.

A private laboratory is employed for the routine examination of clinical material and for the investigation of disease.

Food and drugs throughout the District are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

The Municipal Laboratories at Birkenhead are employed for the examination of milk samples.

Ambulance Facilities.

Since November, 1941, when the Fire Brigade Service was taken from the control of Local Authorities, the Council Ambulance has been staffed by one full-time attendant assisted by members of the local detachment of the British Red Cross Society. After four years of valuable service the members of the Society asked to be relieved of this duty, and as no satisfactory alternative arrangement could be made the Council Ambulance was withdrawn from use in November. Thereafter in cases of emergency recourse had to be made to the use of the Ambulance at the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge.

Nursing in the Home.

This work is undertaken by the following organisations :—

Heswall and District Nursing Association.

Barnston, Thingwall, Woodchurch and District Nursing Association.

Irby District Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are conducted by the Council at monthly intervals, and a Clinic for the treatment of scabies is also a Council undertaking.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

	Each Month.	Time
Child Welfare.		
Methodist School Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall.	Alternate Mondays.	2-30 p.m.
Village Hall, Thingwall Road, Irby.	Alternate Mondays.	2-30 p.m.
School Clinic.		
Methodist School Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall.	Every Tuesday.	2-30 p.m.
Village Hall, Thingwall Road, Irby.	Every Wednesday.	10-30 a.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.		
Out-Patients' Department, County General Hospital, Clatterbridge.	Every Friday.	9-30 a.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.		
42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.	Every Tuesday and Friday.	2-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.		
Birkenhead General Hospital.	Males.	
	Monday, Wednesday and Friday.	5-30—7-0 p.m.
	Females.	
	Tuesday. Wednesday and Friday.	5-30—7-0 p.m. 2-0—4-0 p.m.

Hospitals.

Voluntary.

The Voluntary Hospitals in Liverpool and Birkenhead admit patients from this District.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Heswall, accommodates 242 patients. It is the country branch of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and was designed originally for the treatment of orthopaedic cases. The hospital admits patients from this area.

The Cleaver Sanatorium belongs to the Corporation of Liverpool, and is used for the accommodation of advanced cases of tuberculosis.

Public.

Isolation Hospital.

The Wirral Urban District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board. The Board's Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge has accommodation for 100 patients. The Hospital has modern cubicle wards and a new nurses' home was constructed in 1937. Infectious patients from this area are treated in the hospital where necessary, and under certain conditions beds may be available for measles and whooping cough cases. At Pensby there is a hospital with 12 beds for convalescent scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox Hospital.

The Wirral Joint Hospital Board have an arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority for the admission of smallpox patients to the Smallpox Hospital at New Ferry.

General.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge has been extended and modernised during recent years, and now offers comprehensive services for the investigation and treatment of sickness to residents of this District. The Hospital contains 430 beds, including 34 beds in the Maternity Block, and the hospital has a large staff of resident practitioners and visiting consultants.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Thurstaston Road, Heswall.

The premises are not satisfactory and they are not suitable for the performance of post mortem examinations.

Legislation in Force.

Adopted Acts and Conferred Powers.

1. The Council have all the powers and are subject to all the duties conferred or imposed upon an Urban District Council by the general law (Ministry of Health, 1st August, 1933).
2. The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
3. The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 (parts III and IV as amended).
4. The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.
Part II (streets and buildings) as amended, other than sections 21, 30 and 31.
Part VI (recreation grounds) ; and section 94 comprised in Part X (miscellaneous provisions).
(Subject to certain conditions mentioned in Ministry of Health Order 79322 (1934).
5. The Public Health Act, 1925.
Part II (excluding Sections 21, 22 and 24).
Part VI (recreation grounds).
6. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899—1945.
7. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.
The Council have contracted into the Act (vide Minute 733, 4th December, 1933), so that the Act shall apply to all animals designated therein.

Bye-Laws.

The following Bye-Laws are in force in the Urban District :—

1. Nuisances, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 9th January, 1936).
2. Slaughter-houses, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 20th January, 1936).
3. Smoke Abatement, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 9th January, 1936).
4. New Streets and Buildings, made 7th October, 1935 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 20th January, 1936).
5. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures, made 6th July, 1936 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 28th August, 1936).
6. Buildings, made 5th June, 1939 (confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 26th July, 1939).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. The main source of supply are deep wells at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and the water is controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those examined during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters have a plumbo-solvent action. Examples of representative analyses are given on pages 26, 27 and 28 and the extent of the water softening which is carried out by the West Cheshire Water Board is shown on page 25.

Public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking, domestic, trade and agricultural purposes. Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the house (b) by means of standpipes are given below :—

Dwelling Houses. Population.

(a) House direct	.....	.....	4,500	15,450
(b) Standpipes	....	....	100	350

Consumption.

Details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was approximately 34 gallons per head per day.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall ; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer ; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the Dee.

Rapid and extensive building development in the District during the years immediately before the outbreak of war resulted in circumstances which caused overloading of the sewers during heavy rainfall. The problem of providing sewers capable of coping with the new demands of the District is receiving the attention of the Council. Consulting Engineers are engaged in the preparation of a scheme for re-sewering where necessary and application has been made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow £50,000 to enable work to be commenced immediately upon sewers in the Pensby area.

Rivers and Streams.

Failure of Septic Tanks to act effectively results in pollution of watercourses and it is necessary that the routine examination of sewage treatment tanks should be resumed as soon as possible.

Closet Accommodation.

The following premises are provided with pail closets :—

Permanent Dwellings	....	....	17
Temporary Structures	....	....	82

From the permanent dwellings these are emptied by Council workmen. One pail closet was converted to a water closet during the year.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

During the year domestic refuse was collected at fortnightly intervals and there was a weekly collection of trade refuse.

The service worked smoothly and efficiently until the last few weeks of the year, when the combination of several adverse factors resulted in collection falling behind schedule. The spate of complaints which followed this lapse was an eloquent tribute to the high standard of dependability the service had maintained during the difficult war years.

There is a comprehensive checking and timing system in operation to obtain maximum efficiency at the lowest possible cost. Constant supervision is maintained and the cost of the service has been reduced to a figure which compares very favourably with that for neighbouring Districts.

Refuse Disposal.

All of the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping in the pit at the rear of the Glegg Arms Hotel. In addition to conducting the tip in accordance with the Ministry of Health recommendations arrangements were made for the open faces to be treated with an insecticide.

The life of the present tip is almost ended and a new tipping site must be found and made ready for use.

Salvage.

In spite of national and local publicity there was a reduction in the weight of materials salvaged, but towards the end of the year the decline was checked and there is now reason to hope that there will be no further serious decrease in the weight of reclaimed materials.

Although several members have resigned from the voluntary salvage organisation, this method of collecting salvage continues to be very helpful.

Statistics.

Weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day :	11.46 cwts.
Average weight per bin over the whole year : ...	54.509 lbs.
Rate in £—Collection (excluding loan charges) ...	3.409d.
Disposal ..	1.077d.
	<hr/>
	4.486d.
Less net income from salvage	1.436d.
	<hr/>
	3.050d.
Expenditure per bin collected (excluding loan charges)	4.542d.
Less net income from salvage	1.453d.
	<hr/>
Net expenditure per bin collected	3.089d.
	<hr/>

Expenditure per ton :

Collection (excluding loan charges)	11/10d.
Disposal	3/9d.
	<hr/>
	15/7d.
Less net income from salvage	5/0d.
	<hr/>
Total net expenditure per ton excluding Loan Charges and expenditure for new plant out of revenue	10/7d.
	<hr/>

Statistics (continued).**Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum.**

Collection (excluding loan charges)	.....	£123.86
Disposal	.....	£39.11
		<hr/>
		£162.97
Less net income from salvage	.....	£52.15
		<hr/>
		£110.82
		<hr/>

Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum.

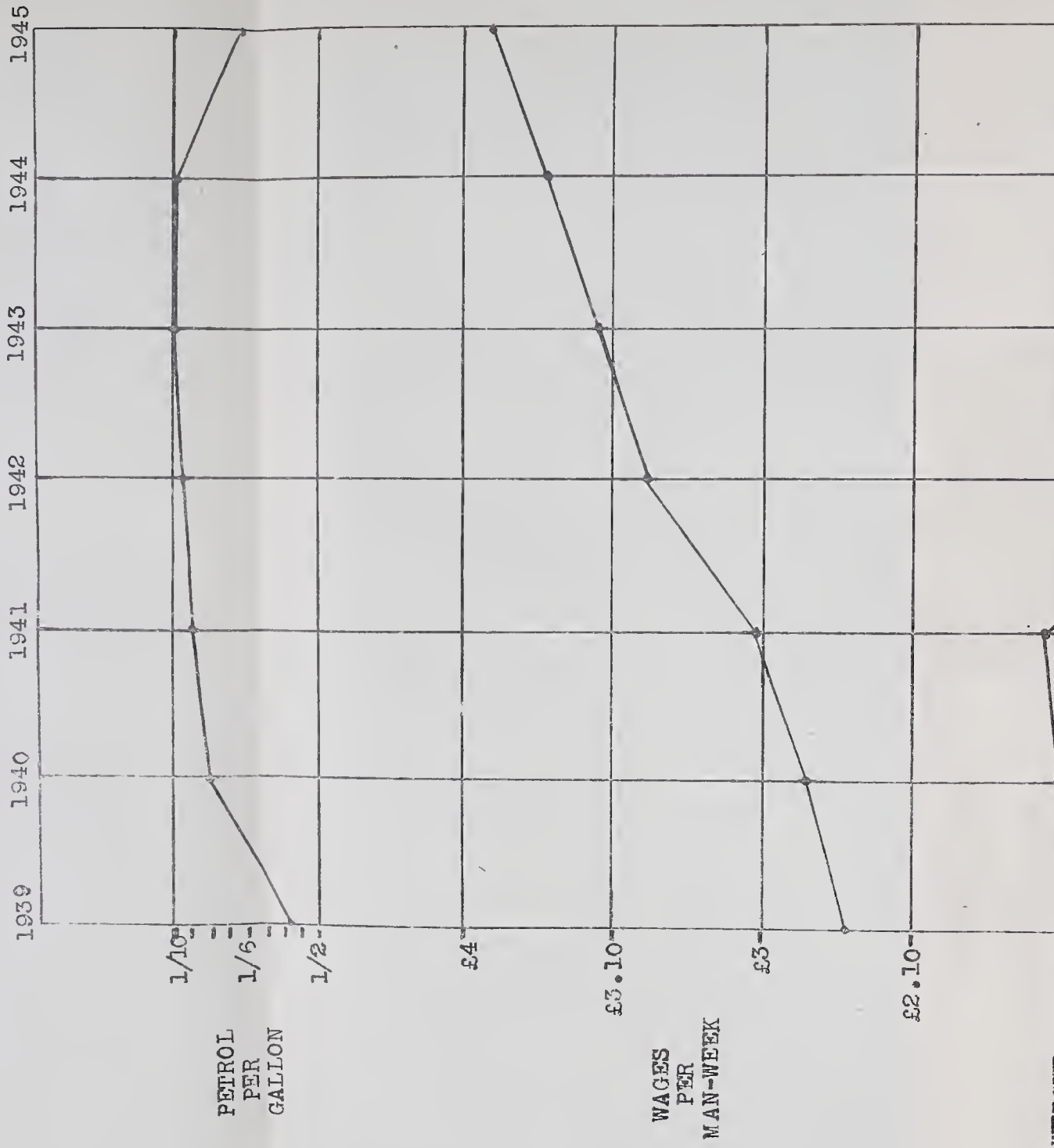
Collection (excluding loan charges)	.....	£391.4
Disposal	.....	£123.6
		<hr/>
		£515.0
Less net income from salvage	.....	£164.8
		<hr/>
		£350.2
		<hr/>

During the year the following materials were salvaged and sold :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£
Paper	90	17	3	577
Kitchen Waste	113	5	3	171
Bones	6	15	1	32
Textiles	6	3	2	99
Metals	16	13	0	26
Cullet	6	12	0	6
Bottles and Jars	3	17	2	31
Boots and Shoes	—	6	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	244	11	1	945
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR YEARS 1939 - 1945



Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal	Compiled With	Outstand- ing	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling Houses :							
Inspected on Complaints	272	17	84	59	42	—	—
Re-inspected	1,465	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re Infectious Disease	144	—	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Acts on Com- plaints	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inspections	42	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections	43	—	—	—	—	—	—
House to house Inspection	31	—	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	54	—	3	3	—	—	—
Factory and Workshop Acts :							
Bakehouses	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laundries	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outworkers	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workplaces	26	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cowsheds	98	—	26	26	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	53	—	4	4	—	—	—
Milk Samples	93	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Preparing Premises	30	—	3	3	—	—	—
Fried Fish and Chips Shop	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Slaughterhouse	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals & Poultry	25	—	3	2	1	—	—
Stables	26	—	2	1	1	—	—
Schools	15	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sewers, Ventilators, etc.	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains Inspected	185	—	35	33	2	—	—
Excavations Made	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Tested	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Tested	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Tanks, Cesspools	12	—	1	1	—	—	—
Refuse Collection	252	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal	669	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	7	—	4	4	—	—	—
Rats & Mice Destruction Act	4,218	2	51	51	2	—	—
Smoke Observations	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Complaints Visited	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Act Inspections	7	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pools, Ditches, etc.	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ashpits and Bins	227	16	121	123	14	—	—
Advisory Visits to Works	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salvage	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evacuation	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	38	—	2	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	8,210	35	348	321	62	—	—

Shops and Offices.

Inspection of seven premises were made during the year and the one informal notice served was complied with.

Camping Sites.

Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures in the District for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Ward	Vans, Sheds, etc.		Tents (April to September)
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston	6	—	—
Gayton	—	—	—
Heswall	27	36	—
Irby	5	28	1
Pensby	—	—	—
Thurstaston	2	6	—
Totals	40	70	1

Smoke Abatement.

The enforced use of substitute labour and low grade fuel combined to increase smoke emission, and on 20 occasions advisory visits were paid to factories to ensure that all reasonable steps were being taken to promote efficient combustion.

At one dairy the vertical coal fired boiler was converted to gas burning and a long-standing nuisance abated.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public baths in the District. There is a private swimming bath at a boys' camp, and this has equipment for chlorination of the water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses

Nil.

(b) Other Houses

Nil.

Number of houses disinfested :—

(a) Council Houses

Nil.

(b) Other Houses

Nil.

Schools.

All the elementary schools have main water supply and are provided with lavatory basins and satisfactory sanitary conveniences. Good equipment is provided, but is not always used to the greatest advantage.

The sanitary accommodation at one of the temporary schools is unsatisfactory and the Director of Education has been requested to arrange for the necessary improvements.

Housing.

Existing Accommodation.

The short supply of building materials and labour and the higher costs of all repairs and maintenance has the inevitable result of increasing the number of occasions when the assistance of the Health Department is sought to remedy housing defects. Compared with the figure for 1939 this type of complaint shows an increase of 150%. In each instance the necessary repairs were effected without having to proceed to Court. Work in connection with issuing Certificates of Essentiality, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Scheme to conserve building materials and labour, occupied much of the time of the Department.

New Accommodation.

In common with all parts of the country there is an insistent demand in the district for more housing accommodation. The problem is receiving the energetic attention of the Council and plans have been made for the provision of 40 temporary pre-fabricated houses and 360 houses of traditional construction. Land for this purpose has been purchased in Heswall, Irby and Pensby and the advanced preparation of these sites is nearing completion. As this report is being written in July, 1946, it can be recorded that the erection of 12 houses is in progress, and that tenders have been invited in respect of an additional 107 houses. In addition the Council is negotiating with private builders for the erection of a further 100 houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 26 registered cowkeepers, of whom 17 are accredited producers.

During the year the shippens and dairies at three farms were reconstructed and four milking machines were installed.

Milk sampling is more than a casual duty, it is done regularly and systematically and every effort is made to sample all sources of supply four times during each year.

The liaison between this and neighbouring District Councils has been maintained and any adverse reports on samples of milk received immediate and satisfactory attention.

Milk Sampling.

Designation	Number Sampled	B. Coli		Methy- lene Blue		Phos- phatase		Tubercle Bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative
Pasteurised	5	1	—	5	—	5	—	—	—
Accredited	77	42	30	58	19	—	—	2	75
Tuberculin Tested	4	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	4
Ungraded	15	9	8	8	6	—	—	—	15
Totals	101	55	39	74	26	5	—	2	94

The following Licences have been granted under the Order during the year :—

“Tuberculin Tested.”

Dealers Retailing Licence	4
Dealers Bottling Licence	1

“Accredited.”

Dealers Bottling Licence	2
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“Pasteurised.”

Supplementary Retailing Licence	—	3
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Meat and Other Foods.

All premises where food is prepared or offered for sale were the subject of frequent inspections. On 25 occasions articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered.

The registered slaughterhouse is closed as a result of the Ministry of Food's scheme for the centralisation of slaughtering, and home killed meat comes from the Bebington abattoir. The Council contributes to the salary of the Meat Inspector.

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples obtained in the Wirral Urban District during the Year ended 31st December, 1945.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Boracic Ointment	2	—
Buns	1	—
Bread	1	—
Cocoa	1	—
Coffee	2	—
Cod Liver Oil & Malt	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—
Epsom Salts	2	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Force meat	1	—
Ginger, ground	1	—
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	—
Milk	20	3
Meat Paste	2	—
Vinegar	1	—
Semolina	2	—
Soup Powder	2	—
Salt	1	—
Totals	44	3

Particulars of Samples Certified as Non-Standard.

Article	Analysis	Remarks
1. Milk	38.4% of extraneous water	Seller was fined £5 and 10/- costs.
2. Milk.	5% deficient in fat	Seller cautioned.
3. Milk.	3.7% of extraneous water	Seller cautioned.

Shellfish.

There is no laying being worked in the District.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The Council, acting as agent for the Cheshire County Council, is responsible for the operation of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 in connection with non-agricultural properties.

A whole-time rat catcher is employed and during the year he successfully dealt with 48 infestations.

Scabies.

The Council Cleansing Centre was used on 20 occasions and 16 persons were treated during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1945.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	At ages—Years												
	Total	Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever	33	—	2	5	17	5	2	2	—	—	24	—	
Diphtheria	15	—	1	3	8	2	1	—	—	—	15	1	
Pneumonia	6	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	8	
Measles	205	2	26	51	118	6	2	—	—	—	20	—	
Whooping Cough	6	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	271	4	30	60	151	13	6	3	3	1	62	10	

Infectious Disease.

The figures in the preceding table include the following cases of infectious diseases which occurred at various institutions in the district, *i.e.* Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Pensby Convalescent Home, St. Fillan's Rest Home.

Age	Disease				Totals
	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	1	—
1—3	—	1	—	3	—
3—5	—	3	—	16	—
5—10	1	6	1	13	2
10—15	—	1	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	11	1	33	2
					48

Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns in- cluding London	148 Smaller Towns Res. pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Wirral
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—					
Notifications :—					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	2.09
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	0.38
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.95
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.25
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	12.97
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.38
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—					
Notifications :—					
Puerperal Fever	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.87 *	

* Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held during 1945.			12
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation during 1945.	Age at date of final injection		Total
	Under 5 years	5—15 years	
		174	16	190
Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection during 1945.	Nil.		

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.								
Age at 31/12/45. i.e. Born in Year.	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5—9 1936—1940	10—14 1931—1935	Total under 15
Number Immunised	—	262	251	283	256	1,041	1,138	3,236
Estimated mid-year population 1945	1,270					2,420		3,690
Percentage immunised to child population.	83.2%					90.4%		87.7%

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation

Notifications			Deaths		
Age at Date of Notification	Number of Cases Notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at Date of Death	Number of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	2	1	3	—	—
4	1	1	4	—	—
5 to 9	3	2	5 to 9	1	—
10 to 14	3	1	10 to 14	—	—
TOTALS	9	5	TOTALS	1	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1945 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	1
25—35 years	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45 years	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55 years	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	4	—	2	7	3	—	1

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1945	44	32	76	23	19	42	118
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1945	8	2	10	—	2	2	12
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations	1	2	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	7	5	12	—	2	2	14
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1945	46	31	77	23	19	42	119

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